

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 FEA-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLCUTLER:OSM

APPROVED BY D:RWDUEMLING

AF:AMB. MULCAHY

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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R 012000Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING PRIVATE LUNCHEON HOSTED APRIL 28 BY DEPUTY
SECRETARY INGERSOLL FOR ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR MBEKA MAKOSSO,
FOLLOWING POINTS WERE DISCUSSED:

2. ZAIRE'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. MBEKA READILY ACKNOWLEDGED
ZAIRE NOW IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL SQUEEZE. HE ATTRIBUTED
MUCH OF CURRENT PROBLEM TO SHARPLY REDUCED COPPER PRICES
RESULTING FROM DECREASED WORLD-WIDE DEMAND AND
SIMULTANEOUS INCREASE IN COST OF PETROLEUM IMPORTS.

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WHILE ZAIRE'S OWN PRODUCTION OF OIL BEGINNING TOWARD END

OF THIS YEAR WOULD HELP IMPROVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION, GOZ REGARDED GENERAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN EUROPE AND US AS MOST IMPORTANT TO IMPROVEMENT OF ZAIRE'S SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME, ZAIRE WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND WOULD NEED COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM US DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT, WHILE IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO OFFER ADVICE TO OTHERS, GOZ MIGHT WELL CONSIDER LOOKING TO EXPERTISE AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT IMF. ANOTHER APPROACH WOULD BE TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH CREDITORS, INCLUDING

US BANKS, TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. EITHER COURSE COULD SERVE TO BOLSTER CREDITORS' CONFIDENCE. MBEKA NOTED THAT IMF MISSION HAD RECENTLY VISITED ZAIRE AND TALKED WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND OTHER GOZ OFFICIALS. MISSION HAD MADE "CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS" TO MOBUTU, BUT GOZ HAD NOT YET RECEIVED IMF'S WRITTEN REPORT. ONE OF "SUGGESTIONS" MBEKA MENTIONED WAS STRETCH-OUT OF GOZ'S FOREIGN DEBTS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ADVICE, WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TO KINSHASA.

3. NATIONALIZATIONS. DEPUTY SECRETARY RAISED MATTER OF NATIONALIZED PROPERTIES OF MOBIL OIL AND TEXACO. HE SUGGESTED THAT PROGRESS ON COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE SALUTARY EFFECT IN SHORING UP CONFIDENCE OF US BUSINESSMEN AND CREDITORS. EVEN THOUGH GOZ MIGHT NOT BE IN GOOD POSITION NOW TO UNDERTAKE FULL COMPENSATION, WOULD BE USEFUL IF EARLY AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE COULD BE REACHED. MBEKA SAID HE WOULD ALSO CONVEY THIS SUGGESTION BACK TO GOZ. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT, DESPITE ALL THE PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING NATIONALIZATIONS IN ZAIRE, THE GOZ'S OBJECTIVE IS TO PLACE IN ZAIRIAN HANDS THOSE ENTERPRISES SET UP AND CONTROLLED BY THE OLD COLONIALISTS AND NOT THOSE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS MADE MORE RECENTLY UNDER THE TERMS OF THE INVESTMENT CODE. THIS POINT, HE NOTED, HAD BEEN MADE A NUMBER OF TIMES BY GOZ SPOKESMEN IN RECENT MONTHS, AND HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REITERATE IT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. - -

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4. ANGOLA. IN RESPONSE TO MBEKA'S QUERY, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID US WELCOMES ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE BUT HAS DIFFICULTY IN FORESEEING HOW THINGS WILL WORK OUT THERE. IN CONTRAST TO MOZAMBIQUE, IN ANGOLA THE SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY THE EXISTENCE OF THREE COMPETING POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. THE US IS RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER INTERVENING IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND BELIEVES

ANGOLANS THEMSELVES SHOULD DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE.
MBEKA AGREED SITUATION IS COMPLEX, BUT SAID GOZ
PREFERENCE (FOR HOLDEN ROBERTO) HAD BEEN CLEAR FOR
LONG TIME. KISSINGER

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